U.T. Status for Leh Region

355. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ladakhis in a representation to Union Government have demanded a U.T. status for the Leh region;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government's attention has in this context been drawn to the newsreport in the Hindustan Times under the caption, "Those with guns are heard, we aren't Ladakhis tell Pant"; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Following the adoption of a Resolution by the J and K Assembly on 26.6.2000 seeking restoration of pre-1953 status, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, in its meetinmg held on 30.6.2000 had passed a Resolution demanding complete separation of Ladakh from the J and K State in the form of a Union Territory.

The people of Ladakh have been reiterating the demand for UT status for Ladakh region from time to time. However, such a proposal is neither received from the State Government nor is under consideration of the Government of India.

Arms Consignment from Bangladesh for North-East Militants

356. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the arrival of a huge arms consignment at Cox's Bazar port in Bangladesh for North-East militants in the first week of April, 2001;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these arms including rifles and high explosive materials are smuggled through the deeply wooded forests near the international border;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Governments of Thailand, Myanmar and Bangladesh have been sensitised. As per available reports, these are the countries from and through which illegal flow of arms to the North Eastern States is taking place. Actionable intelligence is also being shared with these countries on a continuing basis. Other steps taken in this regard include gearing up of intelligency machinery and strengthening of the Border Security Force/Assam Rifles on the Indo-Bangladesh/Indo-Myanmar border.

Loss of properties in the incident on 18th June, 2000 in Manipur

357. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The total loss of properties in the recent incident on 18th June, 2000 in Manipur;

(b) how it happened and whether Government had no knowledge of it to take precautionary measures; and

(c) the steps taken up by Government to rehabilitate the affected people and compensate for the loss suffered by that incident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) (a) As a result of extension of ceasefire with NSCN(IM) without territorial limits in Manipur, State Assembly building and houses of several political leaders were set on fire. Offices of some political parties were ransacked and partially damaged by arson. The Distict Planning Office and a number of vehicles were also burnt.

(b) There was sharp and spontaneous reaction to the extension of ceasefire "without territorial limits" between the Government of India and NSCN(IM). However, preventive measures were taken well